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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 36, Iss. 6)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. XXXVI, No. 6

Jersey City, N. J., March 15, 1954

Price 10 Cents

GEB SETS OVERTIME PAY AIM

The General Executive Board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union met in winter session in Washington, D.C., during the week of Mar. 1. Among the reports and decisions made at the board meeting were the following:

During 1953 ILGWU membership increased by 6,000 to reach a total of 438,000.

The ILGWU will underwrite the \$20,000,000 Corleone Hook housing development on New York's East Side with a \$15,000,000 mortgage.

More than 12,000 garment workers have been retired.

Twenty-eight of the 37 garment industry retirement funds now functioning have entered the reciprocal credit arrangement. Authorized a Boston rainwear walkout if

necessary as a result of stalemated negotiations for a new contract.

Pledged full support of the drive by the American Federation of Labor to organize the garment workers of Puerto Rico.

Directed that contracts covering individual shops of a multi-plant firm be made to expire on the same date.

Authorized setting up of an Israel Feinberg Memorial Fund.

Decided to recommend to the 29th ILGWU convention that time and one-half rates after 35 hours be made mandatory in all agreements.

Authorized Pres. Dubinsky to sign the non-raiding pact between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Garment industry payrolls rose up to 27 per cent during 1953, but in many centers and trades showed a reversal of this trend in the last part of the year and in early 1954.

Notified ILGWU affiliates again of the 1953 convention recommendation to set ILGWU contract minimums at least 10 cents above federal minimum wage rates.

Called on ILGWU affiliates to protect contract minimums with clauses providing they be automatically raised the same amount as federal minimums are increased.

Heard Sen. Kennedy (Mass.) report on current labor legislation.

Since last May 130,000 more have won 35-hour work week clauses so that 350,000 ILGers are now covered.



N.Y. Dress Shipping Clerks Win Recognition, Wage Hike

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1,400 Workers in New England Shops Gain 35-Hour Week

—Page 4

Walterboro Mfg. Pact in S. C. Includes 12% Pay Increase

—Page 2

The Garment Industry

Survey of Work and Wages,
Production and Sales in 1953

—Pages 6-7

Dress Shipping Clerks Sign Industry-Wide Pact

Successfully climaxing a six-month organizational drive of shipping clerks in the New York dress industry, the Shipping Clerks' Union, Local 60-A, announced on Mar. 15 that agreement had been reached with five dress employer associations on the terms of an industry-wide union pact.

Subject to ratification by the dress shipping clerks at a membership meeting later in the day, as well as by the employer members of the five associations, the basic terms of the two-year pact, which goes into effect Apr. 1, are as follows:

Union recognition; \$1 general wage increase; six and one-half paid holidays; minimum of one week's vacation with pay; health and welfare fund, financed by employers' contributions; reduction of hours to 37½ weekly on Apr. 1, 1955; overtime pay.

Citing the 1953 ILGWU convention directive for universal establishment of the 35-hour week, Manager Joseph Jack Spitzer of the Shipping Clerks' Union declared, "We have no doubts that, in renewing the contract, which expires Apr. 1, 1954, we will be able to report achievement of the 35-hour week."

During the first year of the contract, overtime at time and one-half will be paid for all work after eight hours each day; during the second year, after seven and one-half hours. All Saturday work is paid at overtime rates.

Announcement of the settlement by Spitzer came suddenly. Until a few hours before the announcement, the union had distributed literature in the garment district raising the possibility of further strike action if the employer associations persisted in giving the union no alternative. During two months of negotiation, Manager Spitzer had charged the employer representatives with "stalling and unnecessary delays."

In announcing the settlement, Manager Spitzer declared, "We are happy to have reached agreement on terms for an industry-wide contract with the five employer associations in an amicable way."

"The tremendous support of the dress industry's shipping clerks, the excellent cooperation of the Dress Joint Board and the leadership of

our International have made possible the immense success of our efforts to build a union of the shipping clerks in the trade."

"I am completely confident that the shipping clerks, so long the unrecognized and 'invisible' element of our industry, will prove their loyalty, courage and devotion as staunch trade unionists in the finest traditions of the ILGWU."

Asked to comment on the terms of the contract, Spitzer stated, "On the whole, we are satisfied with the terms and we believe the union members will be enthusiastic. This is only the beginning, and not the end. We have lots of places to go from here."

On Jan. 12, the Dress Shipping Clerks' Union endorsed the largest organizational strike of its kind in

the New York dress industry since the general strike in 1933. An estimated 15,000 workers were affected directly and indirectly. The strike ended when the employer representatives agreed, after years of resistance, to sit down at the negotiating table and discuss union recognition of the shipping clerks.

Spitzer is also manager of the Dress and Waist Pattern's Union, Local 60, a constituent local of the New York Dress Guild Union.

The employer associations involved are Popular Pried Dress Manufacturing Assn., National Dress Manufacturers' Assn., Affiliated Dress Manufacturers Assn., United Better Dress Manufacturing Assn. and United Popular Dress Manufacturing Assn.

28 ILG Pension Funds in Reciprocal Program

Twenty-eight of the 37 garment industry retirement funds now functioning have joined the arrangement which enables a garment worker who changes the market or the trade of his employment to preserve the continuity of his retirement credits, it was reported to the General Executive Board by Pres. David Dubinsky.

The tally was given during the course of Pres. Dubinsky's survey of progress made in extending reciprocal retirement arrangements and in winning the additional \$500 death benefit for retirees recommended by the 1953 ILGWU convention.

More than 12,000 ILGWU members have already been retired. This includes approximately 1,500 New York cloakmakers, about 1,500 New York dressmakers and some 2,500 in other trades and centers.

The reciprocal arrangement enables workers to claim retirement benefits even though the required number of working years may have been spread in different centers. The conditions of eligibility are described carefully and in detail in the ILGWU Constitution and individual cases will be ruled on in accordance with those constitutional provisions.

In general, it may be noted, the CEB this month declared that no requirement calls for a total of 15 years of work in the ladies' garment industry during the past 30 years and that of these 15 years the last 10 must have been in the consecutive employment of firms under ILGWU contract and contributing to retirement funds.

These are conditions for retirement only for those who claim benefits under the reciprocal arrangement. That arrangement calls upon each of the centers to contribute toward the full benefit in proportion to the number of years of work of the total of 15 during which the worker

was employed in that center or trade.

The review of retirement also included the announcement that in the first two months of 1954 first retirement benefits were distributed in St. Louis, Kansas City, Baltimore and among New York's belt-makers.

\$100,000 Memorial Fund Established To Honor Feinberg

Setting up of a \$100,000 Israel Feinberg Memorial Fund was officially announced at the Washington meeting of the General Executive Board. Establishment of the fund was spurred by the New York Court Joint Board, which Feinberg served devotedly as general manager for many years.

On each anniversary of Feinberg's passing during the next ten years, the fund's Board of Trustees will announce a contribution of \$10,000 to a cause or institution with which Feinberg was identified throughout his lifetime. The first allocation from the fund will be announced from the next meeting of the General Executive Board in September.

Walterboro Signs Pact, 12% Increase Obtained

Militant union action "paid off" impressively for workers at the Walterboro Manufacturing Co. in Walterboro, S. C., on Mar. 3 when the employer finally signed a contract with the ILGWU, which includes a 12 per cent boost in pay.

The new pact is the result of an eight-month struggle during which the 200 Walterboro workers never once flinched in their fight to win unionism. On July 29 last year, proudly singing "Solidarity Forever," they marched in unbroken ranks out of the shop and set up picket lines in front of the company's property. For a solid month they paraded back and forth, motivated by "law enforcement" authorities and hit by phone interruptions. But no work moved inland.

When the National Labor Relations Board finally pushed aside the last of the employer's desperate pleas called an election freeze, 25, the workers had their chance,

Sentry



Organizer Arthur Jacobson of Knitgoods Workers' Local 155 takes up his post at James Knitting Mills in New York City, protesting firms' refusal to grant union benefits to its employees.

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By David Williams

Nixon Carries Ball for GOP, Tries to Outflank McCarthy

WASHINGTON—A few days ago your columnist was sitting in the lobby of the Mayflower Hotel, Washington's world-famed hostelry, when he fell into conversation with a sweet lady sitting on the same over-stuffed sofa. She was, it appears, the widow of a regular army officer, and had been a neighbor of the Eisenhower at several army posts.

"An affable man, very sociable, a good mixer," she observed. Then she added, leaning over and lowering her voice: "The only trouble with him is that he has no spine."

There have been those who Washington who have been tempted, often and severely, to agree with this judgment. It is perhaps the harsh. The President does not appear to relish a hard-slugging free-for-all. But, if he were strongly and unanimously advised to do so, he might well attempt what he has so far refrained from doing—to collide head-on with McCarthy.

The trouble is that his advisers are not agreed upon this. Some, mostly amateurs in Republican politics, would like him to do so. Others, mostly seasoned old pros, have another idea. What they would like to do is to deprive McCarthy (a nobody) of McCarthyism (which they regard as an immensely valuable political weapon, needed for a Republican victory in the November election). So far, McCarthy has proven too wily and subtle a political in-fighter to let this highway robbery be carried out in broad daylight.

Herbert Brownell, the most political Attorney-General Washington has seen in decades, was the first to carry the ball for the Administration in the projected run-in to outflank McCarthy. It was he who resurrected the long-dead Harry Dexter White. He plotted with other old pro in and about the White House to by-pass McCarthy's one-man show, and to route the play through the more cooperative Jenner Committee.

When he realized that he was being heard out of the play, McCarthy was furious that anyone should presume to perjure a Communist from him, even a dead one. But, with typical dexterity, he took advantage of former President Truman's reference to McCarthyism to get right back into the middle of the scrimmage, reaching up his captain and some leading members of his own team in the process.

Now another effort is being made to box McCarthy out of the play, and this time the ball has been handed to no less a person than Vice President Nixon. The blocks in no corner in McCarthy's path have been through. The network, so weak kneed when McCarthy demanded radio and TV time to answer Truman, have this time been firm. Moreover, a large section of the conservative press, headed by Time Magazine, has swung into action to out McCarthy down to size.

If we interpret this as a belated effort to "put McCarthy in his place," we must at the same time note that the old pro about the President's back has one meaning to this phrase: McCarthyism is not, as others might consider it, quite outside the realm of decent society and decent politics. The pro do not, like that gutless old Yankee, Senator Flinders, want to out McCarthy from the Republican team. On the contrary, they continue to welcome McCarthy to their team, but they want him to act as a member of the team, not like the rugged individualist he is. "Play ball," they are saying, "and we'd be delighted to have you stump the country this fall on your 'twenty years of treason' tour. Get in our way, and you'll see that we can play just as rough as you."

In these circumstances, some Democrats in Congress repeat Adlai Stevenson's forthright attack upon McCarthy in Miami. "Let's at this one out," they are saying, "and let the Republicans tear each other to pieces." Others think this view mistaken, not only in terms of morality but also in terms of tactics. They point out that Stevenson's speech, far from uniting the Republicans, has merely served to divide them further.

Meanwhile, the country still waits for President Eisenhower's much-touted program to achieve some semblance of reality. While the President's resources are severely limited, the White House staff appears to be fully engaged preparing recorded TV programs for the coming campaign. There, it is understood, will be brief. There will be time for the President to expound and expound as long as he pleases, but there will be no time to indicate what chance it has of being enacted.

This capital one observed to be called the heart and brains of the work. Now its situation is one of fear, suspicion, and frustration.

JUSTICE

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350,000 Work 35 Hours, Dubinsky Tells GEB

Time-and-a-Half After 35 Hou. s ILGWU Goal

The 25th convention of the ILGWU, which is scheduled for 1956, will be asked to make it mandatory for all contracts with the garment union to provide time and one-half for overtime after 35 hours, according to a decision reached at the winter session of the General Executive Board. About 50 per cent of the ILGWU membership is now covered by time and one-half overtime provisions.

Within the span of two ILGWU convention periods, garment workers will have achieved a major consolidation of industry conditions. The 1952 convention made the cutback to 35 hours a "must" for all; the 1956 convention will make time and one-half pay after 35 hours a "must" for all.

Union to Provide Funds Needed for ILG Housing

The General Executive Board has voted to have the ILGWU underwrite in full the completion of the \$20,000,000 housing development on New York's East Side for which ground was broken last November. This means that all money needed to complete the venture, over and above the amount contributed by the cooperative subscribers, will be supplied by the union.

Previously, it was planned to finance this project through a first mortgage of \$15,000,000 which a savings bank had agreed to provide with Federal Housing Agency assistance.

However, when it appeared that the FHA administration was demanding a guarantee of completion of the project from the union which would place the union in the position of assuming an unlimited re-

sponsibility without any security, it was decided to consider having the union underwrite the complete loan without FHA participation.

Preliminary studies indicate there may be savings of as much as \$1,000,000 for the cooperators as a result of this decision. At the same time the ILGWU will also be afforded greater security for the obligations it is assuming and the investments it is making.

The houses at Citeaux House will provide homes for 1,566 family units.



John F. Kennedy (standing) Democratic Senator from Massachusetts, gives ILGWU General Executive Board run-down on current legislative activities during board's winter meeting in Washington this month. Sen. Kennedy reviewed status of Taft-Hartley amendments and analyzed other economic measures pending in Congress. Pres. David Dubinsky is seated at head of table.

The complex picture of garment industry and union seeking stability and progress in an atmosphere of uncertainty and change was presented in the report with which Pres. David Dubinsky opened the winter meeting of the General Executive Board at the Shoreham Hotel in Washington on Mar. 1. The ILGWU

chief, in a rapid survey of the various garment centers in this country and Canada, traced upward and downward tendencies in volume of production and earnings.

He used the record of employer contributions to health and welfare funds as a yardstick with which to estimate size of garment industry payrolls and the level of employment. These contributions are calculated by employers as a percentage of their payrolls and there-

fore provide a means for measuring what has been going into garment workers' pay envelopes. The contributions range from 2 to 4 per cent of payroll.

Payrolls Up in '53

While no complete report for the country was available, centers that were surveyed showed payroll in-

creases for 1953 ranging up to 22 per cent. Estimates for the first quarter of 1954 indicated that a leveling off that began in the third quarter of 1953 had, in some instances, turned into a slow decline.

According to the president's report, the major exception to the trend toward higher industry payrolls was the New York cloak industry which, from 1952 to 1953, registered a decline of 3 per cent in the city and a larger drop in the nearby out-of-town centers. Also showing declines in the size of overall payroll were the raincoat and blouse industries.

On the other hand, the dress industry payroll was up 7 per cent with corset and brassiere matching that rise; children's wear was up 12 per cent, including 20 per cent, snowsuits 24 per cent and knitsuits 27 per cent.

It was pointed out that factors affecting the size of employer contribution and of industry payroll are many and complex. Changes in the size of industry population, volume of business, average price of product, wage rates, intensity of season, rate of fund collections and in consumer confidence and preferences are some of the factors involved. Only in a close consideration and evaluation of these on the basis of full information is it possible, for example, to account for the fact that cloak industry payroll declined while dress industry payroll rose, in spite of the fact that both branches obtained wage increases in 1953.

35-Hour Progress

The second portion of Pres. Dubinsky's report was a detailed examination of the various tactics used in fulfilling the 1953 convention mandate to make the 35-hour (Continued on Page 4)

All Multi-Plant Contracts to Have Same Expiration Date, GEB Rules

All contracts signed with a garment firm operating plants in more than one ILGWU regional or market jurisdiction will henceforth be drawn so that their dates of expiration are identical, according to a decision made by the General Executive Board at its Washington meeting.

Pres. David Dubinsky told the board members that the ILGWU General Office has been studying the extent of problems arising from the increase in the number of multi-plant firms. He declared that a preliminary survey made by the Research Department shows that there are 129 such firms with which the union has contractual relations.

The multi-plant firm creates new problems in control and in the enforcement of union standards. The president's report indicated several ways in which these problems are being met.

He pointed out, for example, that all garment firms with their main operations based in New York have contract clauses calling for all of their production to be union made. Several geographic units already are enforcing a practice of synchronizing the expiration dates of contracts with companies who have all of their plants in the one ILGWU jurisdictional area.

Operating on a wider scale are the firms which are based outside of New York and whose plants are scattered in more than one ILGWU jurisdictional area. The new directive issued by the GEB now makes it mandatory for all firms exercising union control over the plants of such firms to work through the

plants and workers of a single firm.

It was pointed out that unless this is done there is the possibility of situations arising in which workers in one plant of a company would be contract-bound to remain at work while those in another plant of the same concern were striking against contract violation.

General Office in order to have their renewed agreements provide the same expiration dates for all

"You — At the Head of the Line!"



J. MATYAS INJURED IN AUTO ACCIDENT

Vice Pres. Jennie Matyas is in the Maxine General Hospital in Green River, Calif., suffering from multiple injuries to the hip, arm, rib and face, as the result of an automobile accident that occurred on the evening of Feb. 28 just outside of San Francisco. Vice Pres. Matyas was driving from work together with Hannah Cusack of the San Francisco office of the ILGWU, who suffered minor injuries.

The car in which they were riding was hit by a speeding vehicle from the rear. The impact threw the car into the opposite lane where it was struck by an oncoming car and crumpled from front and rear.

Additional material presented at this month's meeting of the ILGWU General Executive Board will appear in the next issue of JUSTICE.

1,400 Swell 35-Hour Week Ranks In Fall River, New Bedford Plants

A giant step towards conversion of all Fall River-New Bedford, Mass., area shops to the 35-hour work week was taken recently when 1,400 workers, including 300 newly-organized members, won reduced hours with compensating increases in a series of new and renewed contract signings.

District Manager Frederick Stelm, reporting the gains, said that the new agreements bring the union near complete success in its drive to shorten the work week in all area shops.

Sturbock's holdout among the newly-organized firms was Eliza Fay of Woonsocket, R. I., whose 100 employees, determined to win standard and union conditions for themselves, struck the firm for two months before the employer capitulated. Eliza Fay now operates under terms of the New York Dress Joint Board agreement.

In Fall River, Brightman Sportswear, with 15 workers, and Barry and Co., employing 100, joined the local Needle Trades Employer Assn., signifying their accession to union demands. Also signed up was Kathy Anne of Somerset, Mass., with 60 employees.

Among the firms which have signed contract renewals are Eliza in New Bedford and nine in Fall

Locals Distribute Life Member Cards To COT Pensioners

About 400 members of Local 153, Newburgh, N. Y., turned out at a recent ceremony, organized by the Clink Out-of-Town affiliate at which 13 retired members of the local were presented with honorary life membership cards. The Business Agent Irving Astrow, who chaired the meeting, stated that the increase in clock employees' contributions to the retirement fund would help insure that pensioners start receiving benefits promptly. Irvin Sull, COT educational director, called attention to attacks on Social Security by the union's political program to defend workers' gains.

Members of Locals 20, 22, 60 and 89: Registration for Retirement

will be accepted

STARTING APRIL 15, 1954

Those wishing to retire this year must apply in person at the office of the Retirement Fund, 218-32 West 40th St., New York City, in Room 409 (fourth floor) between the hours of 9 A.M. and 5 P.M.

Members of the Eastern out-of-Town and Northeast Department locals in shops located outside of New York City, working for New York jobs, should apply at their local union office. Registration in New York City will be accepted in the alphabetical order listed below. Those whose last names begin with letter—

- A to B — Apr. 15 to Apr. 23
- C to D — Apr. 26 to Apr. 30
- E to G — May 3 to May 7
- H to K — May 10 to May 14
- L to R — May 17 to May 21
- S to Z — May 24 to May 28

If you cannot come in during the period set aside for you, you may register from May 31 to June 15, 1954.

RETIREMENT FUND OF THE DRESS INDUSTRY OF NEW YORK

Julius Hochman Abe Goodman Harry Uviller
Treasurer Secretary Chairman

First 4 Members Get Pension Pay In Kansas City

First retirement checks were presented to four members of Local 114 in ceremonies held Feb. 23 at the Kansas City, Mo., Health Center. The retirees are: May Gill Leslie, 70, Portia de Munoz, 66, Elsie Reichow, 67, and Morris Weiner, 72.

Union and management representatives at the gathering heard Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein mark the occasion with a tribute to the old-timers and their roles in the union's growth and gains.

The Kansas City Retirement Fund is the second pension fund for ILGWU members functioning in the state of Missouri.

Overtime Okay Paves Way For Renewals In J.C., Newark

Agreement by two major children's dress manufacturers in New Jersey to pay time and a half after regular daily hours, paved the way to new agreements providing for reduction of the work week to 35 hours, it is reported by Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz.

Terms of the renewals with the Max Sigel Co. of Jersey City and Jee Toddlers of Newark call for an immediate cut in working hours from 40 to 37½, with piece workers receiving a compensating increase of 4½ per cent above their total earnings and time workers getting the same pay they previously earned for 40 hours.

One of the major issues that held up settlement for a lengthy period was the method for paying overtime. The employers insisted on paying straight time after 37½ hours, but the union held out firmly for time and one-half for all work performed after regular daily hours, as provided in its agreement with the New Jersey Wearable Dress Contractors' Assn. Employers gave in after Horowitz pointed out the union could not agree to different terms with the manufacturers than it had with the contractors.

The two children's wear manufacturers also stipulated that in the event members of the Industrial Assn. of Juvenile Manufacturers increase their contributions to the retirement fund during the lifetime of the collective pact, they will do likewise.

All existing union benefits were maintained in the renewals, including payment to both week and piece workers for six and one-half holidays, regardless of whether they occur on working or non-working days of the week.

Shop employees are members of Local 220, managed by Salk Reich, who participated in the talks leading to the settlement.

ILG Road Show



Convenients at West Roxbury, Mass., Veterans Hospital were entertained on Feb. 26 by this troupe of ILG'ers, members of Boston locals. Program was arranged by U.S.O.

IN THE MARKET

By Leon Stein

Natural Fibers in Comeback As Rayon Takes Sharp Drop

Changing preferences of the consumer are not always based on whim or style. In the long run, a particular cut of garment achieves widespread and constant acceptance and attains the status of a classic. Sometimes, such a garment fulfills a basic, unchanging consumer need. Only minor variations are played on its basic theme, and its underlying lines come through clearly in spite of surface decoration.

The same trend may be working its way through in consumer preferences for fabric. A report to the ILGWU General Executive Board pictured how production of women's garments has changed in recent years in respect to the use of fabric.

The outstanding fact of the report is the resurgence of the natural fibers as against rayon. For a time there was widespread belief that the man-made fiber would cut into the use of cotton and wool. But the report shows that wool has increased in popularity, especially in coats, and that cotton is growing in popularity, especially in blouses.

In each apparel category the fiber composition is generally limited to two of the sources. Thus, in the case of untripped coats, cotton is of little use. But by 1951 rayon had cut into production to the extent of accounting for 22 per cent of the garments made. Wool still dominated with 78 per cent. In the January through September period of 1953 rayon use had been cut back to 9 per cent of the total and wool was back to 90 per cent.

In unit-priced dresses the slide for rayon was from 49 per cent to 69 per cent of the total between the same two periods. Cotton, meanwhile, climbed from 24 per cent to 30 per cent of the total.

In down-priced dresses, cotton again was the gainer (by a rise from 80 per cent to 85 per cent of the total) and rayon the loser (by a drop from 19 per cent to 13 per cent of the total).

In suits, rayon has slipped from 60 per cent to 55 per cent; wool has gained only 1 per cent in going to 39 per cent of the total. The new, lost minor, challenger is cotton, going from 1 per cent of the total to 8 per cent in the period between 1951 and 1953.

In skirts, wool has held its ground with 23 per cent of total production. But rayon has slipped from 45 to 27 per cent of total while cotton has climbed from 31 to 27 per cent.

Most vigorous variation has been in blouses where design, use and merchandising are intimately related. Rayon has declined in use from 54 per cent to 24 per cent of total. Cotton has climbed from 23 per cent to 53 per cent of total. Most spectacular, however, has been the increased use of nylon, which accounted for 8 per cent of total production in 1951 and in 1953 was used in 17 per cent of blouse production.

Dallas Judge Gives Injunction To Halt Leiter's Lockout of 35

A Dallas judge has slapped a temporary injunction on the Leiter Manufacturing Co. of that city restraining the firm from continuing its lockout of 35 workers who joined the union, out of the total of 40 in its employ.

The company shut the door on these workers the day after they attended a union meeting and signed ILGWU application cards.

Judge Pauline Bush of the 6th District Court of Dallas listened to testimony for four days before issuing the restraining order on Feb. 20. The union brought the injunction under the state's "Right to Work" law, which bans denial of employment because of membership or non-membership in a union.

According to Vice Pres. Meyer Perlstein, Southwest director, the result of the injunction may have far-reaching significance for the labor movement in Texas and the South in general, especially since the suit was successful in winning for its own behalf what was originally intended as an anti-labor law.

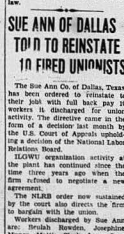
SUE ANN OF DALLAS TOID TO REINSTATE 10 FIRED UNIONISTS

The Sue Ann Co. of Dallas, Texas, has been ordered to reinstate to their job with full back pay 10 workers it discharged for union activity. The directive came in the form of a decision last month by the U.S. Court of Appeals upholding a decision of the National Labor Relations Board.

ILGWU organization activity at the plant has continued since the time three years ago when the firm refused to negotiate a new agreement.

The NLRB order now sustained by the court also directs the firm to bargain with the union.

Workers discharged by Sue Ann were: Nealia Howards, Josephine Munoz, Mattie Clark, Lena Capello, Ann Hunter, Bernice Blumstein, Winona Wheeler, Marie Sullivan, Gladys Salzman and Henrietta De Leon.



UNITY HOUSE OPENS MAY 28



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PHILADELPHIA KNIT LOCAL HITS AMENDMENTS TO CITY'S CHARTER

Bent on throttling a recurrence of corrupt city government in Philadelphia, the executive board of Local 190, Knitgoods Workers, recently voted unanimously to support Mayor Clark's fight against amendment of the new city charter. Manager Joseph Schwartz reports.

The proposed amendment would reopen the doors to politicians who

were responsible for more than 50 years of shady government in Philadelphia.

In 1951, Local 190 had a direct hand in "throwing the rascals out" and placing into the hands of men like Mayor Clark, a new city charter designed to give the city clean, effective government.

Now, in 1954, the same "rascals" are out to scrap the civil service system by substituting political patronage.

To that end they are trying to railroad the issue into the May primaries before the voters know what has happened. Particularly the independent voters who will not only have the least to say about the change, but who will be most affected by it.

The executive board of the local has alerted every member to register and vote for his own protection.

GEB Gives Boston OK For Rainwear Walkout

The outlook for a general strike in the Boston, Mass., rainwear industry has changed from "possible" to "probable," as employers continue to reject union demands for shorter work weeks and wage boosts. The walkout received the official stamp of approval of the union when 2,200 workers voted unanimously to quit work at 26 association shops if no agreement is reached soon.

PACT AVERTS STRIKE IN DOWNTOWN AREA OF TOT DRESS LOCAL

Employers' last-minute acceptance of union terms late last month narrowly averted a strike of workers in "downtown" shops belonging to Local 91, New York children's Dressmakers, Manager Harry Greenberg reports.

The shops are affiliated to the Cotton Apparel and Boot Producers' Assn., which had held out against signing the collective contract reserved by the union with the other employer associations in the industry last December.

After many lengthy negotiating sessions failed to produce a settlement, the local during the last week of February alerted chairmen of the shops involved in preparation for calling a strike.

However, the day before the deadline the bargaining association fell back to line and agreed to grant all gains already put into effect in the other sections of the industry. These included reduction of the work-week from 37½ to 35 hours, with compensating pay increase, raises in wage minimums, and three and one-half paid holidays.

Holiday Pay Complete

All manufacturers and contractors covered by the recently renewed collective agreement in the New York children's dress trade completed completely with its terms in paying workers for Washington's Birthday, first of the three and one-half holidays was in the past. Greenberg disclosed. Payments went both to week and piece workers.

Local 91's executive board, acting on a recommendation by Manager Greenberg, voted to increase the

Simultaneously, the ILGWU General Executive Board, meeting in Washington, D.C., declared that a walkout was the only remaining recourse in the present impasse, and authorized the Northeast Department and Boston Local 51 to take all steps to get a strike in motion at the proper time.

Local 51's agreement with the New England Manufacturers' Assn. expired last Dec. 31. Negotiations for a new pact had been proceeding for several months before that, but the union agreed to a short extension in the hope that a settlement could be reached. A special meeting was arranged in New York between Pres. David Dubinsky, Northeast Department, and David Cingold, and the head of the employers' association.

Several months were put forward by the union spokesmen, cited among them a two-step reduction in the work week to 35 hours. Apparently, these were acceptable to the employers. However, when the negotiations returned to Boston, individual employers made it clear that they were going to disregard the results of the New York talks.

At a standing-room-only mass meeting of Local 51 members held Mar. 4, at which Manager Nathan Barker and other union officers reported, workers voted unanimously to walk out if employers continue to balk at fair contract terms. A committee was named to coordinate negotiating efforts, and it was authorized by the membership to give the signal for stoppage of work if talks are broken off.

1954 vacation payment to \$40. This \$2 boost marks the second successive rise in the benefit.

ILGWU Backs AFL Organizing in Puerto Rico

The ILGWU will give all possible aid to the drive of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) to organize the garment workers of Puerto Rico, according to a decision of the General Executive Board.

The AFL decision to extend a drive to cover the garment workers of the island was made after the federation's Executive Council, at its meeting last month, heard Pres. David Dubinsky report on his experience and findings as a member of a special industry committee appointed by the U. S. Department of Labor to make recommendations concerning changes in the minimum wage rates for the island's needle workers. Pres. Dubinsky served on the committee during the first part of its hearings, which dealt with the minimum wages of corset and bra makers. The special industry committee, composed of nine members with equal representation for industry, labor and the public, voted 6 to 3 to recommend raising the minimum rate from 21 to 35 cents per hour.

Labor members dissented on the grounds the new minimum would be too low and would preserve an unfair advantage now

according to the island. ILGWU Research Director Lazare Taper served in Pres. Dubinsky's place during the remainder of the hearings.

Pres. Dubinsky told the GEB that as the result of his report to the Executive Council, the AFL had decided to work for legislation that would insure equal representation to island and mainland interests in industry committees. The council also has asked that if the present legal minimum wage is altered by Congress, the minimum rates for the island be raised by the same amount.

Among suggestions made to AFL Pres. George Meany for consideration as future amendments to the Wage and Hour Law was a recommendation that Puerto Rican minimums short of the legal U.S. rate be automatically raised 5 cents an hour every year until they equal 90 per cent of the mainland minimum.

The ILGWU chief also read portions of a letter he recently sent to William H. McCumb, Wage and Hour Administrator. In part, the letter, copies of which went also to Secretary of Labor James F. Mitchell and Puerto Rican Governor Luis Munoz Marin, declared:

"The evidence before the Special Industry Committee for Puerto Rico on which I served demonstrated several things. First, that the average wages paid in the production of brassieres in the Puerto Rican factories approximated 10 cents an hour as compared with the average of \$1.24 on the mainland of the United States. Second, management testified that the productivity of the workers in the Puerto Rican brassiere industry approximated 70 per cent of the mainland.

"In other words, the equivalent average wage for the Puerto Rican workers, on the



Slaves are home to many workers.

basis of a difference in productivity, should have equaled 70 per cent of \$1.24 or 86 cents an hour. Even the adoption of a 75-cent minimum wage standard by the industry committee would have failed to bring about such a wage level. The competitive advantage would still have remained with Puerto Rico as against the mainland. The employer members proposed a 40-cent minimum and were willing to accept a compromise for 40 cents.

"The unfair competitive advantage enjoyed by the producers of brassieres in Puerto Rico, as of the time of the committee's sessions, and the threat it offered to the mainland producers were furthermore emphasized by the terrific growth of this industry since 1936—in sales volume in 1953 rose to 937 per cent of its 1936 volume while the net profit on dollar rose to \$1.81 per cent.

"In the light of these and other facts on record before the committee, surely a recommendation in excess of the 35-cent minimum have been justified. That a higher minimum wage was not voted was due solely to the

position and influence of the Puerto Rican public members of the industry committee.

"In the final analysis, it is the public members, rather than the representatives of industry or labor, who determine the decisions of industry committees.

"Yet, as a result of their zeal to promote the industrial development of Puerto Rico all across they have committed their role as public members and become the more narrow partisans of local as against the national interest. The situation is thus created where it becomes impossible to obtain a fair minimum wage in order to protect the mainland as against the unfair competition of the island.

"At this point, I want to stress that I firmly believe, and assume that my belief is supported by the language and intent of the statute, that while Puerto Rico is entitled to have its competitive position protected, it is not entitled to have an unfair competitive advantage against the mainland industry and that the Wage and Hour law is designed specifically to protect both Puerto Rico as well as the mainland against mutual encroachments."



Inside a modern garment press.



House work keeps shop wages down.

MILES and months away from the garment shops that make their dresses, coats, suits, undergarments and other apparel, Miss and Mrs. America make the purchases that provide the money that works its way back to the garment industry pay envelopes. Between the sales slip and the pay slip the factors of style, seasonality, price and production mesh in an undertaking that sends garments back from shop through showroom to department store in one direction—and sends money and purchasing power in a reverse flow back to the garment worker.

The complex relationship of these factors is explored regularly by the ILGWU Research Department in the semi-annual report it prepares for the union's General Executive Board. Such a report was presented to the GEB at its Washington meeting earlier this month.

On these pages JUSTICE presents a digest of that report, featuring the highlights of its findings on the garment worker. We start with the consumer and end with the garment worker. The motives that move and restrain the consumer in considering whether or not to buy are of a broad economic and political nature. Have we present a picture of how she has bought, how much she has purchased in the way of clothing and what this has meant to the members of the ILGWU.

Department
Store Sales



Shop Shipments

The GARMENT

Price Tags

Unit Production

Because of the rise in the level of price ranges it took fewer garments to hit the previous level of production of garments, in terms of dollars.

For example: 7 per cent fewer unit-priced dresses were cut in the first nine months of 1953. But the drop in their dollar volume was only 5 per cent; the number of coats dropped 10 per cent; suits were down 16 per cent, but their dollar value was down only 6 per cent. Exception: 9 per cent more skirts were turned out but dollar volume of sales was down 1 per cent.

Shop Shipments

When stores stop selling shops stop shipping. Sluggish retail sales during the second half of 1953 backed up into the shops. The stores had more stock on their shelves and racks. They took less from the manufacturers until they could clear their stock out. For this reason, garment makers shipped less than retail stores sold, the difference being made up by the stores from their stock on hand.

Except for dozen dresses, skirts and blouses, the dollar volume of shipments for outerwear was behind 1952. The biggest drops occurred in the third quarter of 1953 when the industry felt the full impact of the unseasonable weather. Worst sufferer was the coat and suit industry, which declined but slightly in the first half of 1953, only to drop 12 per cent in the third quarter of the year.

Fabrics

Higher-priced garments meant better fabrics. The growing of wool stands out clearly in all women's outerwear during the quarters of 1953. Greatest gain was in the production of unfurled where the inroads made by rayon were completely wiped out.

Cotton also played a larger role in outerwear. This was especially true in the Chief loser was rayon, the use of which declined markedly in all branches.

Department Store Sales

The sales of women's apparel in 1953 changed with time. And it was not the same for all items.

For every dollar of apparel sales in 1951 the department stores sold \$1.04 of apparel in 1953. In the latter year, sales of coats and suits dropped, while women's underwear and slips showed no change. On the other hand, from 1952 to 1953 sales of girl's wear, corsets and brassieres rose 4 per cent, blouses and skirts and sportswear were up 6 per cent and neckwear and scarves sold 8 per cent more.

As the year progressed, gains were smaller. Unseasonable warm weather was partly to blame. Coats and suits were the chief victims. The slow-down of sales in the second part of the year counter-balanced the gains made in the first half of 1953.

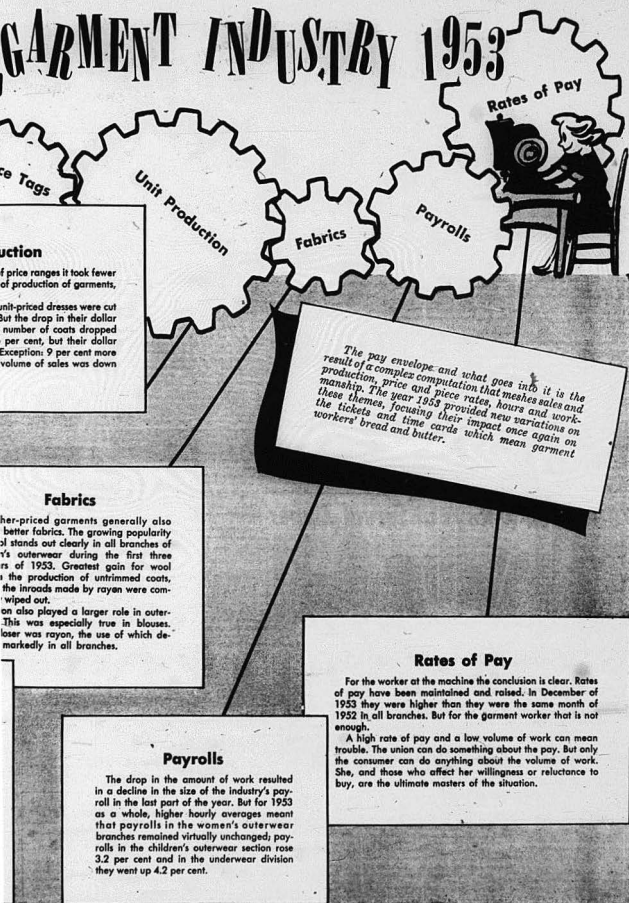
Price Tags

But if women bought fewer garments they bought better garments. At the start of the year, it became clear that the emphasis would be on better-priced merchandise. All outerwear garments showed this tendency, even though skirts and dozen dress fell into line only in the third quarter of the year.

Comparing the third quarter of 1953 with the same period of 1952 shows that the average price of suits rose from \$15.69 to \$19.11; skirts went from \$39.75 per dozen to \$42; unit-priced dresses from \$6.80 to \$6.99 and blouses and waists from \$25.65 to \$26.60 per dozen.

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GARMENT INDUSTRY 1953



350,000 on 35 Hours, Dubinsky Informs GEB

(Continued from Page 3)

work week universal in the garment industry by 1954. He followed this survey with a reminder that not all affiliates of the union have adhered to the recommendation of the convention pertaining to minimum wages.

The GEB therefore decided to notify ILGWU affiliates again that when they negotiate new agreements they keep in mind the convention recommendation "to secure minimum wage scales which exceed the legally established minimums by at least 10 cents."

In a second action on this matter the board decided to protect ILGWU contract minimums by calling on affiliates to write into their agreements provisions declaring that if the federal government raises the legal minimum, minimum rates prescribed in ILGWU contracts are to be raised automatically by the same amount.

Sen. Kennedy Speaks

The board acted the same day it heard an informal report of pending labor legislation by Sen. John F. Kennedy of Massachusetts. Sen. Kennedy sat in on the board meeting for a short period and then addressed the members in a short talk telling of changes that have been suggested for the Taft-Hartley Act, the proposal for lifting the federal minimum wage rate from 73 cents an hour. The Senator and Mrs. Dubinsky also exchanged impressions and opinions regarding the condition of garment workers in Puerto Rico.

In his report on the drive for the 35-hour work week, Dubinsky pointed out that at the time the 1953 convention issued its mandate 230,000 members worked the shorter week. At present 128,000 more, or a total of 358,000 members, work under contracts providing for the 35-hour week. All casualties of the work week have been accompanied

by compensating wage increases. The shorter work week remains to be won for about 65,000 members in the United States and 15,000 in Canada. Thus far, no strikes were necessary to win the basic improvement.

Since last May about 50,000 workers in New York have been reduced to 35 hours. These include the entire memberships of Locals 32, 40, 62, and 91 and about 2,000 in Local 30, 350 additional in Local 68 and 1,700 in Local 142.

Thirty-five-hour work clauses also have been won for about 12,500 members in the Eastern Out-of-Town Department, 48,000 in the Northeast Department, 3,500 in the Upper South Department, 3,100 in Philadelphia, 8,500 in the Midwest Region, 3,000 in the Southwest District and 4,500 on the West Coast in Local 142.

Undergarments Lead

The flexibility with which the drive has been moving toward its goal was illustrated by that part of the president's report which traced the history of the drive.

It began with an account of the difficulties encountered by Local 62, New York Undergarments, in winning the shorter week and went on to describe how by breaking through resistance, Local 62 cleared the way for the current and brawny workers to win the contract to 35 hours, along with a provision for overtime pay after 35.

Other negotiations that were reviewed were those conducted in Fall River, by Local 91 in New York in Philadelphia, in the New York retail and children's wear out-of-town markets and the manner in which negotiations with the Exquisite Brasserie Co. resulted not only in the winning of the shorter week but also the unionization of four more of the firm's plants. The Dressmakers' Spanish Club was established by the Maidenform Corp. also was cited.

Fiesta Launches Harlem Spanish Dress Club



Helping to celebrate inauguration of New York Dressmakers' Local 22 Spanish Club are (left to right, seated): Harlem District Manager Joseph Piscitello; ILGWU Educational Director Mark Starr; Vice Pres. Charles Zimmerman, Local 22 manager; Fannie Cohn, secretary of Educational Department; and Saby Nehama, joint board business agent for Spanish speaking members.

Bouquets of flowers and Spanish folk dances and songs provided a holiday atmosphere at the first public meeting of the Spanish Club of Local 22. Nearly 100 New York dressmakers joined in launching the new club Feb. 26 in the newly-remodeled

Harlem headquarters of the Dressmakers' Union at 228 East 118th St. Joining in the festivities were Vice Pres. Charles S. Zimmerman, local manager; Mark Starr, director, and Fannie Cohn, secretary, of the ILGWU Educational Department; Saby Nehama, Local 22 business agent for Spanish-speaking members. Joseph Piscitello, Harlem district manager of the local, extended greetings to the assembled guests and members.

Typical of the evening's spirit was the attendance of three generations of one family. Not only did grandmother Leonora Rivera and mother Rebecca Vega attend, as Local 22 members but they brought along 6-year-old Patricia Vega to display union family spirit.

The Dressmakers' Spanish Club was established to meet the varied social, educational and political

needs of its members. It plans to develop a complete program, including English classes and a leaders series on trade union subjects and current events. Members will be aided in solving personal problems concerning rent and housing, health, marriage and family difficulties, etc.

Speaking informally to the club members, Zimmerman commented that, "Today the Puerto Rican newcomers to our country face many of the same difficulties that the Jewish and Italian immigrants faced in previous generations. Now, as then, inadequate and crowded apartments, alums, discrimination and language barriers are obstacles that have to be overcome."

"The union offers its fullest moral, financial and organizational support to enable the Harlem Spanish Club to improve the lot of its members and serve the community in general," he declared.

Carlota Rodriguez is administrative secretary of the club, Iliad Itrazary is president and Carmen Roque, secretary. Committee chairmen are Claudia Figueroa, organization; Luisa Delgado, political; Miquelina Ramos, social; Nina Ronin, education.

Toni March in Trenton Joins Union Shop Rank

The Toni March Corp. of Trenton, N. J., began operating as a union shop on Feb. 1, and will function under the provisions of the New York blouse industry agreement, it was announced by Manager John Justin.

The shop's 30 employees will receive the following improvements: reduction of the work week to 35 hours, compensating increases, five paid holidays and employer contributions to health, welfare and retirement funds.



ILG Signs AFL-CIO No-Raid Pact

The General Executive Board of the ILGWU has authorized Pres. David Dubinsky to sign the no-raiding pact between the American Federation of Labor and the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Pres. Dubinsky reported to the GEB on the progress of the AFL-CIO no-raiding pact. The pact is effective only for the unions that sign it. Such unions are bound to refrain from raiding each other's jurisdictions and to use the impartial machinery set up by the pact to adjust conflicting claims.

700 Given X-Rays at Serval Zipper



Putting preventive medicine into practice, New York Union Health Center X-rayed 700 workers at Long Island plant last week. Some of Serval Zipper Co. employees who underwent checkup to head off possible tuberculosis or other diseases line up at X-ray machine. At right is Marie Candela, waiting her turn is Lucy Galis.

"Deep breath . . . hold it . . . don't move . . . okay." Ten seconds.

That's how long it took to X-ray each of some 700 members of Local 132, button and sewing workers, employed at the Serval Zipper Co. in Flushing, N. Y., last week.

Another phase of the Union Health Center's smearing campaign to prevent and cure tuberculosis was accomplished simply and swiftly with the full cooperation of all concerned—the union, the workers, the boss.

With the assurance that union facilities are at their disposal, garment workers today no longer fear or resist examinations.

Still, tuberculosis control is a

vital function of the Union Health Center. Every active case detected prevents a million in preventive control. That is why when one case is discovered in a shop, all the workers in the shop are re-examined to check any spread of the disease in its early stage.

"With today's wonder drugs and facilities for mass examinations we have every advantage to get the jump on tuberculosis," says Dr. Leo Price, director of the center. "If serious treatment can be more effective and time spent in a sanatorium is less, especially when TB is detected early."

Close to 60,000 X-ray chest examinations are given each year in the garment industry alone, Dr.

Price said. Last year 65 active cases were detected through the program. Some 200 to 300 doubtful cases were given further attention as a precautionary measure.

Dr. Price does not regard these statistics as "a indication that the problem ends there. On the contrary, he cited the neglect on the part of many locals for failing to urge regular X-ray checkups for their members.

Credited with appreciating the problem and cooperating in arranging last week's mass X-ray examination at the Serval plant were Martin Feldman, manager-secretary of Local 132; Sam Gloger, business agent, and Bob Landau, personnel manager of the company.

Baltimore, Chicago and N.Y. Salute ILG Veterans

Cloak Operators Honor Davidoff



Feted for his 44 years of service to the union, Nat Davidoff (second from left) office manager of Cloak Operators' Local 117, is congratulated by Manager Benjamin Kaplan. Mr. Davidoff gives handshakes from Robin Zuckerman, chairman of local.

Seven hundred active cloakmakers, joined to pay tribute to Nat Davidoff, Local 117 office manager, for his 44 years of service to the union, on Feb. 28 at Hotel Commodore.

Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the New York Cloak Joint Board, who was introduced by Vice Pres. Benjamin Kaplan, manager of Local 117, felicitated Davidoff on behalf of the board and also

conveyed greetings of Pres. David Dubinsky.

Davidoff was highly praised for his lifetime of loyal service and devotion to the operators' local. In his talk Davidoff promised to carry forward, with all his energies, the work of the union.

Robin Zuckerman, chairman of the local, opened the festive occasion.

President Recalls Early Days As Balto. Cloakmakers Retire

Baltimore retired its first cloakmakers on Feb. 27. To mark the occasion, the 45 oldsters leaving the industry were guests of honor at a dinner at the Southern Hotel attended by their co-workers, officers of the union and representatives of the employers.

They sat at tables with their shopmates and their employers, reminiscing back through the years and then hearing the speakers praise the progress made since the turn of the century, when the cloakmakers of Baltimore set up their first permanent union—Local 4 of the ILGWU.

Vice Pres. Charles Kreindler, as toastmaster for the evening, introduced Jack Hartman and Nathan Hamburger, who addressed the assembly in behalf of the employers. Other speakers included ILOWU Attorney Jack Edelman, impartial Chairman Leon Rucka, former Cloak Joint Board Manager Samuel Kaplan, Louis Posner, the son of one of the retiring members.

Pres. Dubinsky reached back into the recesses of Baltimore ILGWU history in placing together the picture of cloakmakers' lives as they were when the union was struggling for survival in that city. He detailed the living standards of garment workers at that time in Baltimore as well as in other garment centers.

He referred to the old Mr. Posner and his son, employed by the Baltimore Board of Education, and stirred the assembly by declaring that the father had fought in the picket lines, in bitter prolonged strikes because he had shared a vision of a better life not for himself but for those who would come after him. This, the ILOWU president declared, was the finest motive of mankind—sacrifice and struggle to improve the condition of work and the standard of living for all.

Local 117 MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 30
Hotel Diplomat
108 West 43rd St.

Report on GEB Meeting

NAGLER TELLS OGC OF ROAD TO PEACE IN CLOAK INDUSTRY

"The road to peace in the cloak industry was not strewn with roses," but the present arbitration set-up is satisfactory both to employers and the union. So commented Cloak Joint Board General Manager Isidore Nagler in his remarks to an Officers' Qualification Course session on the topic "How Peace Came and is Continued in the Coat and Suit Industry."

The class, held Mar. 4, was the final meeting of this semester's OGC. Joining Nagler in the discussion was Sol A. Rosenblatt, impartial chairman of the coat and suit industry, who praised the cloak arbitration system, and credited its smooth operation to continued cooperation among all factors.

The arbiter told the assemblage how his office worked to expedite all grievances, especially those of some "immediate" like discharge cases. He estimated the number of decisions handled by him since becoming chairman in 1953 at 11,000, and he remarked, as an indicator of the esteem in which the system is held, that over 65 collegiate institutions receive and file the decisions rendered by his office.

Reviewing the history of arbitration in the cloak industry, Nagler said that the latter years of the system have been the most successful ones, since those in charge have been completely familiar with all provisions of contracts and with all necessary background. Earlier he recalled, arbiters had to be introduced first to the general situation before they were able to study the specific grievance.

N. Y. Cloak Pressers Spring Dance Mar. 20

Local 33, New York Cloak Pressers will hold a gala spring dance on Saturday night, Mar. 20, at Hotel Diplomat, 108 West 43rd St. The affair, sponsored by the affiliate's educational department, will feature the well known band of Harry Letourneau. Tickets are available at the local office, 60 West 35th St.

Bazaar of Pioneer Women To Aid Israel Newcomers

The Pioneer Women Trade Union Council and its clubs in Locals 9, 22, 35, 105 and 142 will hold their annual bazaar on Saturday and Sunday, Mar. 27 and 28, at the Hotel Diplomat, 108 West 43rd St. New York City. Funds raised at the bazaar will go to help educate and rehabilitate newcomers to Israel.

Graduation Day



First two graduation-certificates in this year's Officers' Qualification Course were awarded to ILGers Beatrice Newman and Vito Salvo by Cloak Joint Board General Manager Isidore Nagler. Nagler and Cloak Industry Impartial Chairman Sol Rosenblatt (looking on) were guest speakers at final OGC session which dealt with history of arbitration in coat and suit trade.

Chicago Mayor Lauds Messer



Joining in celebration of 40th birthday of Harry Messer (left) chairman of Chicago Joint Board, are Chicago Mayor Martin H. Kennedy and Vice Pres. Morris Bialla.

The grand ballroom of Chicago's Morrison Hotel echoed with well-wishes recently as hundreds of friends and co-workers of Harry Messer, chairman of the Chicago Joint Board and Pressers' Local 18 for more than a decade, joined in paying him tribute on his sixtieth birthday.

It was, in fact, an all-around tribute. In the words of Midwest Director Morris Bialla, who introduced Chicago's Mayor Martin Kennedy: "The Mayor's coming to this banquet is a tribute to the city of Chicago, a tribute to the Mayor, and of course, a tribute to Harry Messer and our Chicago Union."

Bialla termed the "honor which

the Mayor of the fourth largest city in the world paid to a man who 43 years ago was an unknown, friendless, immigrant laborer in a Chicago sweatshop" a symbol of the strength of the American labor movement.

Revealing the days when he and Bialla worked 58 hours a week in the same shop, Messer stressed the changes that had taken place in the intervening years as the result of the union's efforts.

Scores of congratulatory telegrams were received, among them a message from Pres. David Dubinsky hailing Messer for his many years of "unselfish and loyal service to the union."

GEB BACKS N. Y. Knitters In Pact Renewal Efforts

The General Executive Board has pledged its support to New York's 15,000 knifepoos workers whose contracts are scheduled to expire in July. It gave assurance of its backing after hearing from Vice Pres. Louis Wilson, manager of Local 155, that negotiations are scheduled to start with three employer groups in May.

N. Y. Finishers' Local 9 To Visit United Nations

The educational committee of Local 9 has arranged an outing to the United Nations headquarters for Saturday, Mar. 20 at 11:30 A.M. All cloak finishers who are interested in going on the guided tour and outing should register at the local office, 22 West 35th St.

COAST ILG MEMBERS HELP RAISE \$20,000 FOR 'CITY OF HOPE'

As a result of the combined efforts of California garment workers and manufacturers, \$20,000 raised at a town fair will be turned over to the City of Hope, non-sectarian medical institution at Duarte, Calif., Vice Pres. Samuel Otis, Pacific Coast director, announced.

Booths at the fair, were operated by the Los Angeles Cloak and Dress Joint Boards and the Sportswear Joint Council.

The cloak booth broke all records, raising more than \$10,000 in the three-day sales period, Mar. 6-8. Sportswear and dress sales brought in an additional \$6,000. Funds were also raised by cash contributions and ticket sales.

All garments sold were provided through labor-management cooperation, with employers supplying material and manufacturing facilities and union members contributing their labor. A union committee collected the garments, priced them and manned the booths at the fair.

Dues Increased

Faced with increased costs of union operations, members of the Los Angeles Cloak Joint Board have voted to up their dues by 50 cents a month, effective Apr. 1, reports Julius Stenmar, manager of the Los Angeles Cloakmakers' Union.

The unanimous vote came after members rejected a study made by directors and a finance committee report advising that drastic expenditure cuts would hurt the functioning of the union.

Reporting on the action, Stenmar hailed the membership's loyalty and understanding of the problems at hand. "We postponed it for a long time," he added, "and we tried everything we could to prevent raising dues."

EOT Pares Hours at 4 Shops Unionized in N.J.

All the benefits of unionism—including reduction of the work-week to 35 hours—have been won by workers of four shops in the Long Branch-Ashbury Park area in New Jersey, as the result of successful organization activity conducted by the Eastern Out-of-Town Department.

According to Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, department general manager, the following new shops were added to ILGWU rolls in the vigorous campaign:

Sara Joyce Franks, children's dress contractor of Ashbury Park. Standard EOT conditions are provided in the contract with this firm, including an immediate drop in hours from 40 to 37½, with piece workers receiving a 67 per cent pay rise and work workers getting the same pay they earned for the longer hours. On Oct. 28, 1954, hours will be cut to 35, with all workers again obtaining compensating pay adjustments.

Before the shop was unionized, workers had no paid holidays, new both paid for and work workers, \$1.00 per hour for four and one-half day full overtime under the health, welfare, retirement and vacation fund is provided for, as a new bonus will be paid for all work after the regular hours daily. Joan Bernhardt was elected shop chair-lady.

Free Wee Garmant, Ashbury Park. This children's dress contractor has granted union conditions by becoming a member of the New Jersey Washable Dress Contractors' Assn. Workers will be covered by contractual terms in effect between the EOT Department and the association, which among other provisions, calls for reduction in hours with compensating wage, with both both was elected shop chair-lady.

Westwood Bell Co., Long Branch. This company, a producer of belts and novelties in existence since June, 1951, finally has been organized. Terms of the agreement reached between the union and the company provide for an immediate 7 per cent wage increase, with hours reduced from 40 to 37½, and a further increase of 7 per cent on Aug. 30, 1954, when hours will be cut to 35 weeks. In both cases, it was provided that work workers are to receive the longer hours without any reduction in wages. Legal holidays were increased from two and one-half to four and one-half for both piece and work workers. Overtime will be paid for work performed after the daily regular hours. Ruth Metzger was elected shop chair-lady.

Pat Macella, Ashbury Park. After continual negotiations lasting almost a year, agreement was reached for the unionization of this dress contractor. Workers will be covered by provisions in effect under the collective agreement of the New York Fur Industry. Piece settlements will be made in accordance with established industry procedures, and workers will receive the cost-of-living increments and above weekly earnings that are standard in the dress industry.

The workers of these shops have become members of Local 85, managed by Herman Birnba, who was assisted in the drive by Grace Tinsley, local business leader, and Emanuel Leventhal, EOT organizer.

Lovestone Joins in Forum Probing Soviet 'New Look'

Jay Lovestone, secretary of the International Labor Relations Department, is one of the participants in a forum discussing "Is There a New Look in Russian Foreign Policy?" sponsored by the American Committee for Cultural Freedom at the Museum of Modern Art, the evening of Apr. 1. Speakers will be Dr. George S. Counts, Bernard D. Wolfe, Harry Schwartz and Raphael Abramovitch.

The session is one of a series of the cultural group's forums.

JERSEYTES CAN GET REFUNDS ON OVERPAY TO INSURANCE FUNDS

They may not know it, but quite a few members of the Eastern Out-of-Town Department in New Jersey have money owed them by the state.

Vice Pres. Israel Horowitz, department general manager, points out that under New Jersey law workers who were employed by two or more firms during 1953 and who contributed more than \$7.50 for unemployment insurance and/or \$15 for disability insurance funds are entitled to a refund of excess taxes paid—if the sums actually were deducted from their wages.

Of course, in those instances where all or part of workers' contributions to these funds have been paid by the employer, such amounts cannot be included in calculating refunds due. Applications for refunds must be accompanied by certifications of wages and employment security tax deductions to be filled in by each employer worked for during the year.

Workers who have not yet applied for a refund of excess taxes paid in 1953 may still do so, as the law provides that applications may be made within two years from the close of the calendar year during which the overpayments were made.

Application and certification forms for claiming refunds may be obtained from any of the 36 local State Employment Service offices or by mail from the Division of Employment Security, State of N. J. In requesting the refund application and certification forms, workers must indicate the firm for which the refund is being claimed.

DIRECT TALKS ASKED IN DRIVE TO OBTAIN WEIL-KALTER RAISES

What good is a Consumers' Cost of Living Index when it no longer serves as an adequate yardstick for determining equitable wage boosts to which workers are entitled?

This is the question ILGWU spokesmen in St. Louis are posing in current arbitration proceedings on a wage hike for several hundred employees of the Weil-Kalter Manufacturing Co.

According to Vice Pres. Meyer Weinstein, Southwest Region director, the union's position is that since the government has abolished the old index and substituted a new one, the basis for agreement between union and management has become void.

The solution suggested by the Regional Office is that the requested wage increase be determined through negotiations between the employer and the union instead of through arbitration.

Participating in the proceedings begin Feb. 24 before arbitrator John Green, were Dr. Lassar Tupper, ILGWU research director, union attorneys, regional officers and shop representatives.

Education Dept. Makes Available Choice New Films

New films secured by the Educational Department and available to locals for showing at charlatras meetings, political forums or for general entertainment have been listed by the department. Some of the more outstanding are:

"The Hoppers," produced by Metro-Gwyneth Mayer, and a successful commercial enterprise in its first run, is a trenchant and powerful exposure of Communist propaganda, particularly of the many swindles in the "party line" over the years.

"Rains of Happiness" is a touching portrayal of a worker's home life in Puerto Rico.

"Shop Steward" and "Dons and the Union" deal with specific problems in an organized factory and suggest ways of creating smooth working relationships between members, stewards and officers.

ILG Forum Hears Of Coal Decline In Wilkes-Barre

The receding importance of the coal industry in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and the steep rise of new industries are the general topics for the employment gap was discussed at an educational institute in that city last week.

Mark Starr, ILGWU educational director, spoke at the meeting and stressed the union's determination to aid workers living standards in the city through high wages and improved working conditions. High praise for the ILGWU's efforts was given by several speakers.

O. Sward, chairman of the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce and head of the "Committee of 100 to Save Wilkes-Barre."

District Manager Min Lurye Madsen headed the purpose and effects of the meeting and pledged the union to renewed efforts on behalf of community welfare.

EXPERTS SCHEDULE 6 TALKS ON TOPICS OF TIMELY INTEREST

Six talks on topics of current interest, divided equally between Hunter College and the Education-Recreation Center, are scheduled to be held the next two weeks. In each case, an outstanding speaker has been chosen to lead the discussion.

Janina M. Cohn, secretary of the educational department, also announces that the annual Panel Discussion, which Hunter College will discuss "How to Meet Daily Psychological Problems." The following week, Mar. 21, Henry David, professor of economics at Queens College, will view and analyze the most pressing current international problems facing our country. On Apr. 1, Richard L. Wright, "Wages Matter—Lincoln Great." The talks start at 1:30 P. M. in Room 1403 of the college, 69th St. and Park Ave., Manhattan.

"The Methods and Achievements of the National Conference of Christians and Jews" is the first of the Education-Recreation Center's series.

The third talk, by Dr. William Vickrey, educational director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, will be the first of the Education-Recreation Center's series.

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Josette Manufacturing Organized in Bethlehem

The first seeds of a major organizing drive in Pennsylvania have borne fruit with the unionization of a major knifegrind plant, and the field appears fertile for the signing-up of at least 500 more workers in a half-dozen shops.

"Unpromising" was the way the state's Organizational Department, headed by Sol Greene, first tagged the Josette Manufacturing Co. of Bethlehem. Despite the pious of a few workers for unionism, most Josette employees seemed reluctant to respond to union offers of better wages, shorter hours, many fringe benefits. Nevertheless, Pennsylvania organizers stood fast, kept talking to the workers, pointed out that the union had won for its members throughout the country.

Finally, the majority of the workers moved over to active cooperation with the union. Resulting it was felt to redress unionism since the workers demonstrated their support for it, the employer signed a contract with Manager Grace Sargenda which called for all standard union provisions. Said Greene: "The workers have put a lot of confidence in us. We promise to keep furthering that confidence in the future."

Meanwhile, department organizers have recognized that they are up against increasing employer resistance in drives now in progress in Williamsport, Coatesville and Allentown. Emboldened by successful economic conditions and the feeling that national policies favor them against labor, employers are fighting even minimal union demands. This employer intransigence is more than matched, however, by workers' growing determination to win improvements in conditions.

In Williamsport, 200 employees are involved in the drive at Shumbers and Even Paul Corset shops. Another 300 workers are employed at the target site of the Wallace chain and the G and P shop in Coatesville. Through union action, a new Allentown underwear firm, meanwhile, has increased the prospect of a strike. The firm's members of AFL from Workers Local 434, received all proceeds of a pre-Lenten dance held Feb. 24.

2-DAY HALT IN N. Y. WINS 35-HOUR WEEK FOR SHOULDER PADS

New York shoulder pad workers won a 35-hour work week and other gains last week following a two-day strike called by Local 102. Some 2,500 workers in about 150 shops were affected.

It was the first walkout in the shoulder pad industry's 12-year existence.

On Mar. 8, before the strike was a day old, 28 shops signed union agreements paving the way for the remaining struck firms to fall in line. Local 142 Manager Joseph Turkin headed union negotiators.

The new contract, to run two years, reduces the work week from 41½ hours to 35. Week workers will get a 7 per cent compensating wage boost, and piece workers receive a straight 4 per cent raise. All gains become effective Nov. 1, 1954.

Other union gains include pay for those holidays to which workers are entitled even if they occur on Saturday, and a 10-cent increase for learners.

The contract expired on Feb. 15, and the controversy reached a peak three weeks later in the course of renewal talks which had been going on since early December.

Philip Kramer to Address N. J. Histadrut Institute

"Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor," will be the topic of the week of Mar. 20-27 in New Jersey where Gov. Robert B. Meyner has proclaimed "Histadrut Week."

Highlighting the event will be the 21st annual Histadrut Institute on Mar. 21 at Rutgers University. Among those slated to speak at the institute is ILGWU Vice Pres. Philip Kramer, manager of the Boston John Board.

Give to AMERICAN RED CROSS

CUTTERS COLUMN

Cutters' Membership at Peak As Tally Shows Total 8,694

Local 10 has the highest membership in its history, Manager Moe Falkman told executive board members of the cutters' organization at a recent meeting. As of December, 1953 the local had 8,694 members. A year before the total was 8,634 and in June, 1952 it was 8,236. This indicates a significant degree of stability despite losses through death, resignation or retirement, Falkman said. He noted that 434 cutters had retired under the various industrial pension plans. Moreover, during 1953 alone over 80 members had passed away.

That Local 10 has been able to hold its own in recent years and even increase its membership some what while some other locals in New York City experienced a drop was due to various factors, Falkman said. For one thing, there was a high degree of centralization of cutting facilities in the city despite the rise in contract production in outlying sections. Then, new members were gained through organization drives, such as the special campaign conducted during the past year in the underwear sector.

Moreover, the local has added a number of sons of cutters who learn the trade and they are admitted to membership after a year's ex-

perience in the shop. These young recruits are among the most loyal and devoted members of the organization.

Speaking of younger and older members, Falkman called the attention of the board to a recent analysis of the age distribution of the cutters. A computation of the average age of Local 10 members by trade showed the following:

Cloth and suit	45.9 years
Dress	45.9 "
Misellaneous	42.5 "
Spicewear	46.8 "

A percentage breakdown by age brackets also provided interesting information.

Age	All (%)	Cloth & Suits (%)
44 and below	50.8	48.9
45-64	42.4	45.8
65 & over	5.8	13.7

Nagler Cries Harder Causes For Problems Facing Cloaks

Employment opportunities of New York cloakmakers have been adversely affected by the recession that has hit the garment industries in general and the women's coat and suit trade in particular in recent years, according to Vice Pres. Isidore Nagler, general manager of the Cloak Joint Board.

In a comprehensive analysis of industrial problems presented to the board at its meeting on Mar. 10, Nagler pointed out this development as a major cause of the continuing drifting away from New York of the cheaper lines of production.

The cloak chief stressed the necessity for increasing employment opportunities in New York, maintaining it was the union's prime obligation to do everything in its power to safeguard the jobs of its members who will remain in the industry for many years to come.

Nagler focused his attention on the external factors—economic and social and psychological—and those that are internal to the union and the industry, which help to explain the present difficulties in the trade. He expressed the hope that his analysis might provide the basis for finding solutions to the problems confronting the Cloakmakers' Union.

To show how the present situation arose, he sketched the history of the industry since the start of World War II, as viewed against the over-all changes in the American economy. He also focused attention on the social factors on the American scene, such as the trend toward suburban life, the growth in recreational activities, travel and other things which have caused a change in the manner of dress of people. The present economic downturn in the nation was also considered for its effects on the well-being of the cloakmakers.

Against this background of external forces, the general manager pointed out changes that have taken place within the union and the industry, including the driving out of the "reserve" from which had come the skilled labor supply of the industry and the growth of section work in the outlying districts. In the present end of the industry's production.

Following his detailed analysis of the situation, Nagler offered some recommendations designed to provide means for safeguarding the employment opportunities of the New York cloakmakers, and, by doing so, preserving the prominent position of the Cloakmakers' Union. These recommendations are being considered by the locals comprising the Joint board.

(Details of Vice Pres. Nagler's remarks will appear in the next issue of JUSTICE.)

GEB VOTES TO BACK BILL FOR LOW COST NIAGARA ELECTRIC

Pres. David Dubinsky last week notified Sen. Herbert H. Lehman that the ILGWU General Executive Board meeting in Washington had endorsed the Lehman-Roosevelt Bill (S. 2866) proposing New York State development of Niagara River power facilities.

A resolution adopted at the meeting, Dubinsky informed the Senator that the ILGWU General Executive Board meeting in Washington had endorsed the Lehman-Roosevelt Bill (S. 2866) proposing New York State development of Niagara River power facilities.

The bill would provide low-cost hydro-electric power, set up a yardstick to insure fair competition and save consumption of electric energy in and around New York State millions of dollars.

The resolution also expressed opposition to granting with all possible clear the way for private exploitation of Niagara power resources. Copies of the resolution have been sent to members of appropriate committees of both houses of Congress.

LOCAL 10 MEMBERS REGULAR MEETING

MONDAY
March 29

Right after work
MANHATTAN CENTER
34th Street and 8th Avenue

The data presented by Manager Falkman showed that slightly over half the cutters are 45 years old or less. In this age group the sportswear trade had the highest proportion (65.3 per cent) followed by the misellaneous trades (64.4 per cent), dresses (47.9 per cent) and cloaks (46.9 per cent).

While the average age of the membership undoubtedly has risen the local still has a large body of relatively young as well as middle-aged members due to its policy of replenishing its ranks.

Dress (%)	Miscel- laneous (%)	Sports- wear (%)
47.9	69.4	65.3
48.1	56.8	32.9
4.0	2.8	1.8

Jack Mendes New Unity House Mgr.



Jack Mendes, newly appointed manager of Unity House, can draw on more than a quarter-century of hotel and resort administrative experience.

Before assuming his duties with the ILGWU Pocomo vacation spot last week, Mendes had been manager of the Seinar Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla., and previously served for long periods with establishments such as the Atlantis and Villa Hermosa in Florida and Astor's Hotel in New York State's Adirondacks.

Mendes succeeds Alfred Taux, who resigned last June for reasons of health which made his duties too burdensome.

HANDMACHER-VOGEL MAINTENANCE STAFF JOINS ILGWU RANKS

Union recognition finally has been won for 45 shipping and maintenance workers employed in five plants of the Handmacher-Vogel Co. largest suit firm in the country. It was reported by Nicholas Kline, director of the Ohio-Kentucky Region.

The ILGWU was designated collective bargaining representative of these workers, employed in shops at Harrodsburg, Glasgow and Lebanon, Ky., after a card check vote of Mar. 3 and 4 disclosed a substantial majority had indicated their preference for the union.

By their decision, the shipping and maintenance workers linked up with some 1200 Handmacher-Vogel personnel workers already in the ILGWU.

Organizational work among the shipping and maintenance employees was handled by William Kline, man, in charge of the Kentucky area.

Drive at Page

An intensive organizing campaign is being conducted among workers at the Page Manufacturing Co. in Lexington, Ky., subsidiary shop of Riverside Procks. Page is Kline's successor to the Portrair Procks Co. which formerly operated in Lexington. The latter moved to South Carolina, where it is now again under contract with the ILGWU.

Part

By MAX PRESS

Flame upon flame the sunset fires go down,
Star after star night rises in a dream.

Out of the gray disaster of the war,
We stare where the lights of harbor gleam.

Good was the quest, adventure shared was good,
But the watch grows long and the strong heart tires;

Our faith was not above the sulken
But toll and pain can temper all desires.

Out of the wondrous beauty of the war
We were to beauty that is deeper still:

The calm light of the rising harbor moon,
Lifting the shadows from the harbor hill.

BOOK FRANTY

By Marion Speichandler

Experts Examine World's Problems In Trio of Books

The three-play problem of putting the world on a basis of peace is explored with interest-arousing clarity in a trio of books by authors experienced in dealing with the problems they raise.

SHIRT - SLEEVES DIPLOMACY (John Day Co. \$4.) is by Jonathan Bingham, the served first as Deputy



Administrator and then as Acting Administrator of Point Four, the Technical Cooperation Administration. This was the administrative agency of the bold program President Truman announced early in 1948. It was a program that aroused the imagination of the world by offering to extend to underdeveloped nations of the world a portion of American wealth and know-how in a world-wide battle against the poverty which breeds communism.

It was, for those still waving the flag of Yankee imperialism, a challenging reversal of traditional American policy and one which excited tremendous good-will among the machinery and engineering skills that turned up the "Made in America" label in all parts of the free world.

It Point Four has been among our soundest investments in building a fairer, freer, and more peaceful world. Bingham, viewing its development and history from the inside, is able to trace the difficulties of its birth and the work which was done until the new administration began to make military commitments synonymous with American aid. Point Four "as our strongest weapon against world poverty."

THE TEST OF FREEDOM (W. W. Norton and Co. \$3.) is Norman Thomas' admirable attempt to define the manner in which communism may be fought without jeopardizing the civil liberties which have always been the mark of genuine Americanism.

In these pages Thomas insists that the method of McCarthy is both inefficient and contrary to our traditions. As one who has himself been the target of slings and arrows from the left and the right, he is especially fitted to argue in behalf of sensible caution: the barring of Communists from sensitive posts but also the preservation of the civil liberties which are the right to rid them of any hold on American life. It is arguable whether with patience and logic, as by an outstanding American champion of freedom and tolerance.

POWER OF WORDS (Harcourt, Brace & Co. \$3.50) continues Stuart Chase's exploration among the latest developments in the social sciences. This time he is concerned with semantics, language, communication through which we try to know each other and the world.

Words get in the way of the truth and much of the world's sorrow has been the result of failure to understand rather than of genuine and irreconcilable differences. Chase is an exciting popularizer and he renders, in these pages, the language as a view of summing for the layman much of the intricate and technical work that has been done in trying to discover the tricks of language.

He argues that words are more than a mirror of thought and have also power to create thought and action. But the language is so straight we have to be able to think straight. This book helps reveal why, until now, we have so often failed to do either.

Give to AMERICAN RED CROSS

JUSTICE

INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

NOW IS THE TIME

IF THERE IS A PLOT AFOOT to undermine confidence in the Eisenhower Administration it is not being cooked up by the Democrats. Indeed, it was as a staunch defender of the two-party system that the titular head of the Democratic Party this month broadcast an appeal to gear the conduct of national affairs to patriotic rather than party needs. And, more often than not, it has been the opposition that has given the President the support without which his proposals could not begin to move through the legislative mill.

The President himself has set March as the month of decision. He told his press conference on Feb. 17 that this month's unemployment figures would point the direction of future policy. Now, midway through March, there are cries of warning. They are without political edge. They are raised by some of the Administration's warmest supporters.

Said the "Wall Street Journal" on Mar. 12: "The government's census-takers are about to explode a statistical bombshell—new figures indicating unemployment as of early February had spurted far beyond the Eisenhower Administration's expectations."

Says current "Business Week": "There's been a decline of about \$6 billion, at the annual rate, in payrolls. Families whose incomes have been cut tend to spend more carefully. Even those with incomes unchanged hesitate before undertaking major outlays or going into debt."

Says this month's Guaranty Trust Co. Survey: "The business decline, now some eight months old, still shows no positive sign of coming to a halt. . . . Labor income undoubtedly continues to be adversely influenced by the combination of rising unemployment and shorter hours."

Says the March National City Bank Monthly Letter: "... The contraction in output up to this time has been as large as the endline decline during the 1949 recession. In fact, it has proceeded somewhat faster."

THE PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICLY STAKED the right of his party to continue to rule on its ability to lead and legislate. Yet, with more than two months of the present Congressional session gone, the legislative pipelines are clogged and important bills have been held up.

There has been no action on labor or farm programs, on housing and health, on social security and old-age insurance, and only half the Congress has moved ahead on the St. Lawrence Seaway plan or the bill to raise the national debt limit to \$290 billion.

Only four and one-half months before Congress will adjourn, so that its members may rush home to campaign for reelection, creeping paralysis of legislation has set in. But by his own word the President's party must stand in judgment before the American people next November.

We do not cry panic. Nor are we questioning here the President's strong devotion to the highest ideals of American life and liberty. But we do charge that it is his own party that is frustrating his hopes, tying his program in knots, making a shambles out of his proposals and testing to the full how long the people will continue to tolerate a party which keeps tripping up the leader who carried it to victory a year ago.

The fight within the Republican Party is of concern to the entire American people who must pay the price for lack of effective national leadership. For better or worse, the legislative blackboard is blank, thanks to Bricker and McCarthy who whipped up the side-shows that have done nothing to strengthen this nation in either the international or domestic fight against communism but have, on the contrary, diverted national attention from urgent tasks.

The warnings we have cited—and they can be duplicated many times—come from friends of the Administration. They are a danger sign calling for quick action. Republicans cannot so act as long as they must ward off challenges within their own ranks. There is barely time for them to learn that for the Republican Party two heads are not better than one.

"Film Strip"



"Nags to Riches"



Worker Looks at the Boss

By
Eric Hoffer

Excerpts from an article which appears in the March issue of Harper's Magazine.

THERE are many of us who have been working all our lives and, whether we know it or not, will remain working-men till we die. This sober realization need not be unduly depressing to people who have acquired the habit of work and who, like the American workmen, have the ingredients of a fairly enjoyable life within their reach. Still, the awareness of being an eternal workingman colors one's attitudes; and it might be of some interest to indicate briefly what the relations between management and labor look like when seen from his point of view.

One need not view management as an enemy or feel self-righteous about doing an honest day's work to realize that things are likely to get tough when management can take the worker for granted; when it can plan and operate without having to worry about what the worker will say or do.

THE important point is that this taking of the worker for granted occurs not only when management has unlimited power to coerce but also when the division between management and labor ceases to be self-evident. Any doctrine which preaches the oneness of management and labor—whether it stresses their unity in a party, class, race, nation, or even religion—can be used to turn the worker into a compliant instrument in the hands of management.

Both communism and fascism postulate the oneness of management and labor, and both are devices for the extraction of maximum performance from an unpaid labor force. The preaching of racial unity facilitated the exploitation of labor in our South, in French Canada, and in South Africa. Pressures for nationalist and religious unity served, and still serve, a similar purpose elsewhere.

OUR sole protection lies in keeping the division between management and labor obvious and matter-of-fact. We want management to manage the best it can, and the workers to protect their interests the best they can. No special order will seem to us free if it makes it difficult for the worker to maintain a considerable degree of independence from management.

The things which bolster this independence are not utopian. Effective labor unions, free movement over a relatively large area, a savings account, a tradition of individual self-respect—these are

some of them. They are within the worker's reach in this country and most of the free world, but are either absent or greatly weakened in totalitarian states.

In the present Communist regimes unions are tools of management, worker mobility is discouraged by every means, savings are periodically wiped out by changes in currency, and individual self-respect is extirpated by the fearful technique of terror. Thus it seems that the worker's independence is as good an index as any for measuring the freedom of a society.

THE next question is whether an independent labor force is compatible with efficient production. For if the attitude of the workers tends to interfere with the full unfolding of the productive process, then the workingman's independence becomes meaningless.

It has been my observation for years on the docks of San Francisco that, while a wholly independent labor force does not contribute to management's peace of mind, it can get good management to perfect its organization and to keep ever on the lookout for more efficient ways of doing things. Management on the San Francisco waterfront is busy 24 hours a day figuring out ways of loading and discharging ships with as few men as possible.

Contrary to the doctrine propounded by some in the heyday of the Industrial Revolution, mechanization has not taught docility to "the refractory hand of labor." At least here on the docks, no one carries lest the machines cut down our earnings. We know that we shall manage to get our full share no matter what happens. And it is a dull workingman who does not see in the machine the only key to the true millennium. For only mechanization can mitigate—if not cure—"the disease of work," as de Tocqueville calls it, which has tormented humanity since the first day of its existence.

IT is true, of course, that the cleavage between management and labor is a source of strain and strife. But it is questionable whether tranquility is the boon it is made out to be. The constant effort to improve and advance is neither automatic nor the result of a failure of choice between alternatives. In human affairs, the best stimulus for running ahead is to have something we must run from. The chances are that the millennial society, where the wolf and the lamb shall dwell together, will be a stagnant society.